

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV 612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400 ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

September 1, 2011

Eric W. Olson Vice President Operations Entergy Operations, Inc. River Bend Station 5485 US Highway 61 St. Francisville, LA 39150

SUBJECT:

MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -

RIVER BEND STATION

Dear Mr. Olson:

On August 17, 2011, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of River Bend Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

Overall, River Bend Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at River Bend Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., Green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., Green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. Temporary Instruction (TI) 177 Inspection, "Managing Gas Accumulation in Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal, and Containment Spray Systems" is scheduled to begin the week of November 14, 2011.

In the days following the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed

TI-183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here: http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, "Mitigating Strategies," to confirm compliance with Order

EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC's Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident." The Commission is currently reviewing the Task Force's recommendations to determine whether additional actions may be warranted.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at 817-860-8144 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Vincent G. Ğaddy, Chief Reactor Projects Branch C Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-458 License Nos. NPF-47

Enclosure: River Bend Stattion Inspection/Activity Plan

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07:22:04 Page 1 of 2 08/24/2011 Report 22

Inspection / Activity Plan River Bend

09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

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Page 2 of 2

08/24/2011

Report 22

07:22:04

Inspection / Activity Plan River Bend

09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Title

on Site

No. of Staff

- RADIATION SAFETY RS12

Inspection Activity

Planned Dates Start End

Unit Number

IP 71151-PR01 10/29/2012 11/30/2012

RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent

Comments: